

Mass Intentions ~ November 12-18, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Mikey Medlock (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Francine & Bubba Gilmer (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)
**Thursday @ 6:00 pm — Mass of Remembrance
Friday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish (Sp Int)
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Marie Lodes (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Arellano Castro Family (Sp Int)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish (Sp Int)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:
Fred Parrish, father of Shelley Cranston
Piper Leigh Parten, granddaughter of Steve Parten

Repose of the Soul:
Ernesto Santiago, father of Marla Gray

Adoration this week: Mon—Fri 8am-12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00 pm

Altar Flowers this week are in memory of Nolen Hughes, husband of Marilyn Baker.

Blessed Mother Flowers this week are in memory of William J. Carollo, donated by Tami and William Carollo.

Reminders & Announcements

November 10th & 11th — Rummage sale hosted by the Women's Guild in the Family Life Center gym. Stop by for coffee & donuts after Mass, and check out the sale! Hours are Saturday 8am-7pm & Sunday 9am-1pm. Nice items. Cheap prices.

St. Joseph Catholic School's Open House is Sunday, November 11th at 2:00p.m. This event is for anyone interested in knowing more about St. Joe. For more information, please contact Tricia Harris at 601.898.4803 or tharris@stjoebruins.com.

Mass of Remembrance — November 15th @ 6:00 pm Please note there will be no 7:30 Morning Mass this day.

Carmelite Monastery Open House Weekends begin November 17th featuring baked goods, gifts, Advent Supplies, Fontanini Nativities and more. Pick up a flyer from the Information Tables for more details.

Hospitality of the Soul Retreat Day December 1st 9:30 am - 3:00p.m at St. Mary of the Pines Retreat Center in Chatawa. Please join members of The Women's Guild to begin the Advent season together. Contact Renee Carpenter 601-214-9457 or email stpaulwg@gmail.com if you are interested in attending or need more info. We will be carpooling from church leaving at 7:00am. There is a suggested donation of \$40 - which includes lunch.



Almighty God, we give You thanks for all those who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices our Veterans have made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. We ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**Church website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Office phone: 601-992-9547**

**November 11, 2018
Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**



Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO
March 7, 1923 ~ October 25, 2018

Fr. Thomas Keating, that great, contemplative, Trappist monk died peacefully on October 25th at the age of 95. He was one of the great leaders in reviving Christianity's contemplative tradition, which involved meditation as a way to access a direct connection to God, as mandated by the Second Vatican Council. Though Keating lived a truly contemplative life with many years spent in almost total silence, he said "I felt a great desire to share the treasures I had found in the way of a deeper relationship with God." Monks were invited to take their work to the outside world, this allowed and compelled Keating to share and compare his spirituality with others. He was invited to Rome to meet with priests and religious scholars on ways to renew the Christian contemplative tradition. This led to Keating joining two more Trappists, Fr. William Meninger and Fr. Basil Pennington (1931-2005), and the formation of the practice of Centering Prayer.

Keating was born in Manhattan to a prominent lawyer father and mother who did not practice organized religion. His affluent upbringing brought him to Yale where he studied Christianity and the mystics. He began to understand that we are all called to a personal relationship with God. This prompted his transfer to Fordham University. After graduating in 1943, he entered a Cistercian Monastery in Rhode Island and was ordained a priest at the age of 25. Because of his great desire to achieve the contemplative life, he cut ties with his family and lived in almost total silence for six years.

He left in 1958 to help start a new monastic community, St. Benedict's, in Colorado. Then, three years later he was elected abbot at St. Joseph's in Massachusetts and served there for the next two decades. After the Second Vatican Council, Keating returned to Snowmass, Colorado and began organizing conferences with leaders of other religions including the Dalai Lama, imams and rabbis. Keating co-founded Contemplative Outreach Ltd. which now has chapters in 39 countries. He authored more than 30 books, and held workshops and retreats to promote centering prayer to clergy and lay people.

Two common methods of contemplative prayer are Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina. Contemplative Outreach defines Centering Prayer as a personal relationship with God and a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him. Rev. Carl Arico, a co-founder of Contemplative Outreach says, "Centering Prayer is all about heartfulness, which is a little different from mindfulness. It goes to the relationship with God, who is already there. It's not sitting in a void."



Lectio Divina is the ancient practice of praying the Scriptures by "divine reading." Steps for Lectio Divina were written by Carthusian Monk Guigo II, a desert father who developed "the Ladder of Monks." This four-step prayer process was incorporated into the Benedictine way of life and is practiced the world over. Our Parish staff and Liturgy Committee engage in praying Lectio Divina monthly as a group. We also have many people in our parish who practice contemplative prayer and have attended retreats and workshops with Fr. Meninger and other contemplative leaders.

(more inside)

So....you might ask, what is all of the big hoopla about the death of Thomas Keating?
— After all, he was 95 and died peacefully in the Monastery that he had founded.

The big deal is not so much about his death, but rather about his life and the way he lived that life. He left us, as Catholics and Christians, a legacy that is pretty much unparalleled in our lifetime. As you can glean from the brief biography on the cover, he had a great array of writing, teachings and instruction on the way of prayer — very specifically, Contemplative Prayer.

Thomas Keating saw Contemplative Prayer as a gift from God to all of His people who are open to receiving His Gift. It is a gift of prayer that goes very far beyond what may be regarded by many as normal prayer. By normal prayer, I mean the prayers that Christians normally pray and have been taught to pray by family, friends, and school & Church leaders over the years. Very often, those are prayers that we have learned by rote (the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines rote as: “the use of memory usually with little intelligence; mechanical or unthinking routine or repetition”)

For a lot of Christians down through the centuries, this became a great deal of their practice in terms of prayer. They were merely following the direction they had been given by their leaders. While that is a valid form of prayer, it is a limited form indeed. There is a whole lot more to the genuine experience of prayer. Traditionally, rote prayer covered my personal experience of prayer and my relationship with God.

One of the earliest teachers or instructors of Contemplative Prayer was St. Anthony the Great (251-356) who appears to have had a long, healthy life — much like Thomas Keating. St. Anthony was also known as St. Anthony of Egypt, St. Anthony of the Desert, St. Anthony the Anchorite, and sometimes The Father of All Monks. Anthony withdrew to the desert and formed a community that sought to be in communion with God through ascetically forms of prayer and practice.

While that experience bore rich fruits, it also has its dark side, in my opinion, because it led to a great divide. It nurtured a perception that those who really wanted to be in communion with God would withdraw to the desert and become communities of prayer. The reality of life is that the majority of people in our world are never drawn away or never feel called to the desert. Most Christians serve God in a very different manner as they are engaged in the business of the world, working, raising a family, and taking care of everyday duties and responsibilities.

Subsequently, the Contemplative form of prayer was lost for the majority of believers. The great divide was established. Contemplative Prayer is the domain of those who willing to withdraw to the desert. Thomas Keating became one of the great masters of our time in challenging and rethinking that process. He became keenly aware of the idea that most Christians in our world are not drawn to that form of contemplative prayer, and the only reason is because we have not been introduced to it.

Thomas became a guru of our time in terms of trying to help us realize that Contemplative Prayer is a very deep and special form of prayer for the everyday man and woman who live in the world. He took the directive of the Catholic Church’s reforming “Decree on Ecumenism” (Vatican II) to join together in dialogue and fraternal charity, and restore many of the great traditions of our Early Fathers which had been lost or neglected over the period of separation.



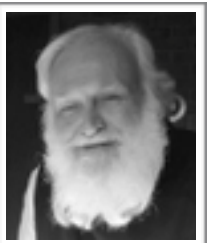
Fr. Keating & the Dalai Lama

The practice of Contemplative Prayer had remained mostly in the domain of the Eastern Church. Accordingly, many who wished to engage in the practice of Contemplative Prayer chose to study the Eastern Fathers, and often drifted away from the Western Practice of prayer and faith.

Thomas Keating and his confers, William Meninger and Basil Pennington, set about restoring a wonderful practice of our tradition that had become also me lost in the shuffle! Thank God for the life of Thomas Keating R.I.P.



Fr. Meninger



Fr. Pennington

More next week on this powerful practice! — Fr. Gerry

Publications by Thomas Keating

Open Mind, Open Heart
Manifesting God
Intimacy with God
Invitation to Love
The Human Condition
The Mystery of Christ
Awakenings
Reawakenings
The Kingdom of God is Like...
Crisis of Faith, Crisis of Love
Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit
The Better Part
St. Therese of Lisieux: a Transformation in Christ
The Transformation of Suffering
The Heart of the World
And the Word was made Flesh
Finding Grace at the Center
Spirituality, Contemplation & Transformation: Writings on Centering Prayer
The Daily Reader for Contemplative Living
Journey to the Center: A Lenten Passage
Active Meditations for Contemplative Prayer

